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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

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We have a number of personnel announcements to make as well as an interim report on the FY 81 budget:

Terry B. Kinney, Jr., is our new Administrator for Agricultural Research, succeeding T. W. Edminster who retired February 29. Since 1978 Dr. Kinney has been Associate Administrator of Agricultural Research, and since Mr. Edminster's retirement has served as Acting Administrator. Dr. Kinney's background and experience make him well qualified to oversee the work of approximately 7,000 permanent full-time and 1,100 part-time employees. A native of Massachusetts, he received B.S. and M.S. degrees in poultry husbandry, with a minor in zoology, at the University of Massachusetts and a Ph.D. degree in genetics from the University of Minnesota. He joined the USDA staff in 1962 as a consulting statistician in Beltsville. He served in USDA offices in Lafayette, Ind., and Peoria, Ill., before returning to Washington in 1974 to become Assistant Administrator for livestock and veterinary sciences.

Mr. Edminster who retired after nearly 37 years of Federal service, continues to provide us with the benefit of his experience via informal telephone communications. A national and international leader in his field, Mr. Edminster is the current president of the International Commission of Agricultural Engineering -- the latest in a long history of awards and honors which stretch from the William A. Jump Memorial Award as the nation's most outstanding young leader in government service to the Department's Distinguished and Superior Service Awards and the National Civil Service League's Career Service Award.

Dr. Mary Nell Greenwood has been named SEA's new Administrator for Extension, a position she has been filling on an acting basis since Neill Schaller accepted the position of Assistant to the Secretary for Consumer Affairs. Dr. Greenwood received a B.S. degree in home economics education at Central Missouri State College. She earned her M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in extension administration from the University of Wisconsin. She joined SEA in 1978 as Associate Deputy Director for Extension after wide experience in Extension Service at the University of Missouri from 1951 to 1978. While there she served as County Home Agent, Extension Home Economist and Marketing Agent, State Extension Agent, Extension District Home Economist, and Associate Professor of Extension Education. She has served as Assistant Director of the University's Extension Division, as Director of Continuing Education for Women and Director of Quality of Living Programs. From 1971 to 1978 she directed the University extension programs with responsibility for four university campuses and off-campus program planning units.

Dr. Edward C. Miller has been named Associate Administrator for Cooperative Research. Dr. Miller has been with USDA since 1956, first with the Agricultural Research Service at Beltsville and from 1963 with Cooperative Research. He has most recently been responsible for program functions within CR that include the Special Research Grants program, the new Animal Health and Disease Research program, and the Competitive Research Grants program. Dr. Miller fills the position made vacant when Dr. Tom Ronningen became Director-at-Large for the Northeastern Agricultural Experiment Station Directors.

Dr. Paul J. Fitzgerald has been named Regional Administrator for AR's North Central Region succeeding Mr. Earl Glover. Dr. Fitzgerald first joined USDA 26 years ago as a wheat breeder. He held a 2-year assignment with the Rockefeller Foundation in Santiago, Chile, and returned to USDA in 1962. For the past five years he has served as associate to Mr. Glover who retired in February. Mr. Glover was in Washington last month for the USDA and SEA awards ceremonies in which he was honored as the recipient of the National Civil Service League's Career Service Award.

Mr. Bille Hougart is serving as Acting Director for SEA's Special Programs, filling in behind Keith Shea who is now Associate Deputy Chief for Research with the Forest Service. Mr. Hougart will continue his responsibilities as Aquaculture Coordinator for USDA as well as Program Manager for Aquaculture in SEA.

Mr. Charles Beer has been named Extension Deputy Administrator for Agriculture Programs, replacing Dr. Ray Scott who retired February 29. Dr. Beer served as head of the extension farm management staff at the University of Missouri from 1962 to 1964 before beginning his service in Washington where he has held several Extension positions including Director of the Agricultural Production Staff and Director of Independent Family-Owned Farm Programs. For the past two years Dr. Beer has been head of the Current and Future Priorities Staff in SEA-JPE.

Dr. D. Mark Hegsted, SEA's Administrator for Human Nutrition, has received the Eleanor Naylor Dana Award for Preventive Medicine for his work in nutrition research and development of new dietary guidelines for Americans. The \$5,000 award presented this month in New York by the American Health Foundation cited Dr. Hegsted for "critical scientific analysis of nutrition research, particularly in its application to disease prevention."

Dr. Homer Folks has completed his 2-year IPA assignment as SEA's Assistant Director of Higher Education and is returning to the University of Missouri in Columbia where he was Associate Dean of Agriculture. We were greatly saddened to learn of the death, on May 23rd, of Dr. James C. Dollahon, Dean of Agriculture, University of Wisconsin, at River Falls. Dr. Dollahon had been scheduled to succeed Dr. Folks on a 1-year IPA assignment beginning June 2. Our deepest sympathies are extended to Dr. Dollahon's wife, Kathryn, and children Grace and Jim, Jr.

Here are how things stand as of today as far as SEA's budget is concerned:

This Administration's commitment to reduce Federal spending in the fight against inflation required amendments to the President's FY 1981 Budget.

For FY 1981: SEA's revised budget totals \$885.6 million. This is \$21.8 million lower than the original request of \$907.4 million. Within the new budget, AR programs increased by \$16.3 million; HN programs increased by \$4.7 million; CR programs increased by \$8.6 million; Extension programs increased by \$9.5 million; TIS increased by \$638,000; and Higher Education programs funded under the Bankhead-Jones (\$11.5 million) were eliminated.

The \$21.8 million reduction in the revised budget consists of (1) \$10.3 million for increased operating costs to reduce SEA's original request from \$34.5 million to \$24.1 million for this item and (2) \$11.5 million for higher education activities funded under the Bankhead-Jones Act.

The following table shows the revised FY 1981 proposed budget increases by SEA unit:

(dollars in thousands)						
Area of Emphasis:	SEA	AR	HN	CR	EXT	TIS
. Basic research.....	\$ 7,300	\$ 6,750	\$ 550	\$ - -	\$ - -	\$ - -
. Integrated pest management.....	4,000	1,000	- -	2,000	1,000	- -
. Human nutrition.....	4,000		4,000	- -	- -	- -
. Competitive Research Grants.....	9,000	- -	- -	9,000	- -	- -
. Aquaculture.....	500	- -	- -	500	- -	- -
. Germplasm resources.....	900	400	- -	500	- -	- -
. Antidesertification.....	1,000	- -	- -	1,000	- -	- -
. Guayule.....	600	600	- -	- -	- -	- -
. AGRISTARS.....	700	700	- -	- -	- -	- -
. EFNEP nutrition studies.....	1,000	- -	- -	- -	1,000	- -
. Non-point source pollution.....	1,300	- -	- -	- -	1,300	- -
. Energy Retrofit-Federal buildings.....	3,500	3,500	- -	- -	- -	- -
. Increased cost of operations.....	24,080	6,815	- -	6,231	10,787	247
. Other items <u>1/</u>	7,554	6,075	159	516	413	391
Total.....	\$65,434	\$25,840	\$4,709	\$19,747	\$14,500	\$638

Proposed Legislation:

1890 Facilities.....	\$ 5,000	- -	\$ 5,000	- -	- -
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1/ Includes proposed increase for small farm research (\$250 K), farm business information systems (\$300 K), food quality and safety research (\$100 K), genetic vulnerability research (\$300 K) and pay costs (\$6,604 K).

The House Committee on Appropriations has not acted on the FY 1981 budget proposals and action is not expected until overall Federal spending level issues are resolved.

50th Anniversary for 4-H Camp/Conference

Over 1,000 persons from all States, D.C., Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands and Guam participated in the 50th National 4-H Conference in April sponsored by USDA and conducted under the leadership of SEA's Extension 4-H-Youth staff.

I was pleased to have the opportunity to be a part of many of the Conference activities, including an assembly in USDA where Secretary Bergland spoke on "Youth and the Structure of American Agriculture and Rural Life."

A large number of former Camp/Conference delegates joined the group for special 50th anniversary activities, including an appointment with President Carter who spoke of the strengths of the 4-H program and how pleased he was to note that in addition to serving rural youth, 4-H is also making important contributions to urban youth. Other highlights included an address by Senator Larry Pressler of South Dakota, a former 4-H'er, a pageant depicting the contributions of the Camp/Conference to the 4-H program, and a talk by Judge Juanita Stout of Philadelphia, a 1964 4-H Alumni winner from Oklahoma. From all reports, this was a highly successful event, carried out with excellent cooperation within SEA, other USDA offices, State Extension staffs, and the National 4-H Council.

Agriculture Research Facilities in Saudi Arabia

T. W. Edminster and I, along with several officials of OICD, visited the Saudi Arabia Regional Agricultural and Water Research Center in Riyadh in February. The purpose was to confer with officials in the Research Center on ways SEA could more adequately assist in developing research programs within the Kingdom and to work out a scientist-to-scientist exchange program.

SEA-AR has played a major role during the past five years in developing the Research Center. In 1975, only a building and uncrated equipment existed. At the present time, approximately 100 scientists and support personnel are working on research projects in crops, soils, livestock and food science.

The USDA, along with the Department of Interior, is working with the Ministry of Agriculture under the U.S./Saudi Arabia Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation.

RCA Appraisal Continuing

SEA is working with the Soil Conservation Service and other agencies on an appraisal of the use of soil and water resources on non-federal land and the development of future conservation programs. This activity follows from the Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act (RCA) of 1977. RCA draft documents have been prepared and some 70,000 public responses now are being analyzed to assist in developing recommended programs. Dr. Ralph McCracken Associate Director, SEA, is a member of the RCA Coordinating Committee and Dr. Jack Bond SEA-JPE is a member of the Work group. Several other SEA staff members are working on program development, including Dr. Dave Dyer, SEA-JPE, on analysis of the public responses. Three Cooperative Extension Service personnel last month helped Larry Heffner, SEA-Extension, develop a statement of extension programs and needs -- Fred Swader, New York; Dean Axthelm, Nebraska; and Robert Walker, Illinois.

Energy Task Force Solicits Input

Our SEA task force on agricultural energy is developing an overall plan that will encompass research, extension, higher education, and technical information systems.

Dr. Bill Stout, professor of agricultural engineering at Michigan State University, is heading the task force. Dr. Stout is widely-known for his energy expertise and is extremely well-qualified for this role.

Drs. Landy Altman, SEA-Special Programs, and Albert Grable, JPE, are assisting Dr. Stout with task force logistics.

The group is assessing both short and long range energy needs to produce a document for use by agricultural administrators and decisionmakers in policy development, budgeting, and negotiation with other agencies and groups. The task force will identify what must be done to assure that agriculture provides the maximum energy supplies possible, consistent with food production needs and conservation of land resources; and to assure that agriculture uses energy efficiently and does its part to conserve energy resources.

The next meeting of the full task force is in June. The group is actively soliciting input for their assessment. Contact: Bill Stout (517) 353-3797 or Al Grable (301) 344-4079. This is a unique opportunity to show the strengths of the agricultural research and education system. The task force expects to submit their final report by Sept. 30.

Research Apprenticeships for Minority High School Students

We are pleased to report that SEA, through the support of its cooperators, will be sponsoring 139 minority science students with internships during the summer of 1980. These outstanding young people will be working in the laboratories of agricultural scientists at 45 different locations in 26 states. Our sincere thanks go to everyone who has contributed to the organization and initiation of this program.

Implementation of the Native Latex Act, P.L. 95-592

Proposals for Cooperative Research projects on agronomic practices, plant breeding and genetics of guayule, an arid-zone, rubber-producing shrub, were solicited during April and May via announcement in the Federal Register. Twenty-seven proposals were received from universities and nonprofit organizations in New Mexico, California, Arizona, and Texas. A peer panel is being assembled and will meet to review the proposals during the week of June 23-27, 1980. In accordance with the solicitation announcement, six or eight projects of up to four years' duration will be funded. Successful applicants should receive approval of funding by early July.

The Joint Commission on Guayule Research and Commercialization, chaired by Assistant Secretary for Rural Development Alex P. Mercure, is continuing discussions with the U.S. Department of Defense and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to develop and provide funding for a plan to demonstrate commercial feasibility of the guayule rubber industry. Our total supply of natural rubber, a strategic defense material, is imported, with about 98% of it coming from Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Sri-Lanka, and Liberia, and about 2% coming from Zaire, Nigeria, Ivory Coast, and Brazil.

4-H Begins Entering Its Documents Into Agricola Data Base

On May 13-14, 4-H program leaders and publications editors from the 12 North Central States met at the National Agricultural Library to learn how to code 4-H publications for entry into the AGRICOLA data base. References have already begun to be added to the AGRICOLA data base and will be available for online searching through computer terminals located in the States in varying locations -- perhaps in the land-grant library, perhaps in the Dean's office, perhaps in the 4-H office itself).

Addition of 4-H publications to the AGRICOLA data base will improve the capability for States to share publications and facilitate joint development of publications. A newly-formed National Advisory Committee will recommend policies and processes for expanding this pilot project to include all States.

Joint Council

The Joint Council is making progress in putting into place the regional and national planning and coordination structure called for in Title XIV of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977. All four permanent regional councils are now in place. Each of them has, or soon will have, established its regional committees for functional research, extension, and teaching. The three national functional committees will soon be established.

At its April meeting, the Council held a workshop on evaluation to provide background for Council exploration of its Congressional charge to "analyze and evaluate the economic, environmental, and social impacts of agricultural research, extension, and teaching programs conducted in the United States..."

The Joint Council has also recently published several reports: Areas of Emphasis in the Food and Agricultural Sciences for the Early 1980's; Research, Extension and Higher Education in Human Nutrition; Research, Extension and Higher Education for Small Farms. These reports are available from Susan G. Schram, USDA-SEA, Room 351-A, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Users Advisory Board

The Users Advisory Board has continued to meet in different parts of the country to see and hear from other users about research and extension programs and needs. The Board met in Florida in February and in California in April. In both places the Board held public forums for users' comments. Compiled statements from these forums are available from Dr. James Meyers, USDA-SEA, Room 351-A, Washington, D.C. 20250.

In March, the Advisory Board issued its Report to the President and Congress responding to the President's 1981 budget for food and agricultural research and extension. This report generally follows the priorities set forth in the Board's October 1979 report. Both the Senate and House committees made reference to the report during SEA budget hearings.

The Board will next meet in Washington, D.C., July 14, 15, and 16. The Board will meet jointly with the Joint Council on Food and Agricultural Sciences on July 16. Copies of Users Advisory Board reports and meeting proceedings are also available from Dr. Meyers.

Program Review Undertaken at University of Puerto Rico

Recently, a unique opportunity for SEA occurred when Chancellor Salvador Alemany requested assistance to develop a program review of the College of Agricultural Sciences, University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez Campus. He requested help in "taking an indepth look" at the Experiment Station, Extension Service and Resident Instruction units of the College of Agricultural Sciences to obtain a review of current activities as well as perspectives for future planning and development. Concurrently, he desired an assessment of ways that USDA could become more involved in cooperative research, teaching and extension programs in Puerto Rico.

I asked SEA's Joint Planning and Evaluation staff to provide coordination and assist in planning the program review and to assemble a qualified external peer review team. Members of the review team included: Dr. Thomas S. Ronningen (review chairman), Director-at-large, Northeastern Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors, College Park, MD; Mr. Dean F. Davis, Area Director, Florida-Antilles Area, SEA-AR, Gainesville, FL; Dr. Charles P. Ellington, Executive Vice President, Potash and Phosphate Institute, Atlanta, GA; Dr. Lewis B. Nelson, Consulting Editor, Farm Chemicals, Florence, AL; Dr. Richard H. Merritt, Dean of Resident Instruction, Cook College, Rutgers the State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick, NJ; Dr. Robert C. Kramer, Director of Agricultural Programs, Kellogg Foundation, Battle Creek, MI. Dr. Gary R. Evans, SEA-JPE, served as executive secretary.

The team conducted the review at the University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez Campus, from May 4 to May 12, 1980. Brief visits were made with the University President and President of the Council on Higher Education in Rio Piedras, the Commonwealth Secretary of Agriculture and a Special Assistant to the Governor in San Juan, as well as Experiment Station field substations in Fortuna and Isabela. A final report by the team should be to the Chancellor by the end of June.

SEA-Extension Involvement in the Northern Marianas

Two bills now under consideration by Congress would provide for implementation for Cooperative Extension programs in the Northern Marianas.

H.R. 3580 included the Northern Marianas and American Samoa as being eligible for Extension programs conducted under Title V of the Rural Development Act.

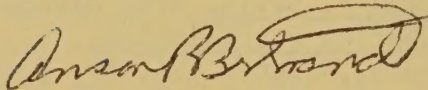
H.R. 7330 which has passed the House had been amended to authorize the implementation of Cooperative Extension programs to the Northern Marianas and other territories.

The Science and Education Administration is participating in discussions with the Office of the Secretary and representatives of the Northern Marianas to determine what programs and methodology would best serve the needs of these islands. Specific emphasis will be given to food production.

A study prepared in 1975 outlined several Extension activities which could be effectively implemented if legislation were modified to permit use of Smith-Lever funds for this purpose. The study also provided suggested legislation similar to the amendment included in H.R. 7330.

SEA-FSQS Memorandum of Understanding

SEA continues to be aware of our responsibilities to meet the research and education needs of our cooperators and the action/regulatory agencies. Recently we signed a new Memorandum of Understanding between SEA and USDA's Food Safety and Quality Service (FSQS), creating an umbrella process through which SEA will provide research to meet high priority action and regulatory needs identified by FSQS. Even before the formal memorandum was initiated, cooperative working relationships had produced agreement on research needs and priorities in the nitrite substitute programs. We are now in the process, through an agreed-upon procedure, of reviewing the rest of the direct safety-related programs of interest and concern to FSQS. Plans are underway for using a workshop approach to reviewing and developing research programs in response to FSQS needs regarding Salmonella.



ANSON R. BERTRAND
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